Setting up World Class Universities

1098. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has announced that it is going to establish World Class Universities;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any concrete action to establish such Universities after the announcement; and

(c) the probable locations for such World Class Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government is considering a proposal to set up 14 Universities aiming at world class standards at the following locations identified for the purpose:

Sl.No.	Location
1.	Amritsar (Punjab)
2.	Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)
3.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)
4.	Patna (Bihar)
5.	Guwahati (Assam)
6.	Kolkata (West Bengal)
7.	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
8.	Kochi (Kerala)
9.	Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat)
10.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
11.	Mysore (Karnataka)
12.	Pune (Maharashtra)
13.	Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
14.	Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

Spending on education

1099. MS. KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spending on education as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has come down substantially in the fiscal year 2007-08 compared to that of 2002-03, despite a national commitment to provide 6 per cent of GDP for education and to earmark 50 per cent of budgetary allocations for primary education out of that;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government has taken or proposes to take to increase the spending on education to the committed level of 6 per cent of the GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Though Expenditure on education by education and other departments as percentage of GDP has come down slightly from 3.78 in 2002-03 to 3.64 (Provisional) in 2007-08, expenditure on education by education department only as percentage of GDP has increased during the same period from 3.03 in 2002-03 to 3.05 (Provisional) in 2007-08.

(c) During Eleventh Five Year Plan, Ministry of Human Resource Development has been allocated Rs.2,69,873 crore (Rs.1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education and Literacy and Rs.84,943 crore for the Department of Higher Education) which constitutes 19.4% of the total Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation, as compared to 7.7% in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This substantial increase in central plan outlay for education represents a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government towards raising public spending on education towards the goal of spending 6% of GDP for education. Overall progress towards this goal would however, also depend on the efforts made by the States.

Inquiry of deemed universities

†1100. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were irregularities in according sanction and providing grants to the deemed universities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would get the matter inquired through an independent agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are no irregularities in according sanction and providing grants to the Deemed Universities. All the grants are being released as per UGC guidelines/norms. The Government have already constituted a Committee of eminent academics, independent of the UGC, to review the functioning of institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'.

Setting up new colleges

1101. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new colleges in 2009-10 in educationally backward districts;

(b) if so, how many colleges are likely to set up in minority populated districts;

(c) whether such minority populated districts have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.